Home Agent's Notes

By Mrs. B. G. Anderson
Home Demonstration Agent

Thanksgiving, Then and Now

By Grace Bulkley

Years ago was first Thanksgiving
When the settlers met for prayer;
Virgin forests all about them,
Danger lurking everywhere;
Rough-hewn logs their dwelling,
Scant oft their daily fare.

But they gave thanks for their blessings,
For the harvest safe in store;
Though they kept the day with feasting,
Still to them it meant much more.
Can we not keep our Thanksgiving
As they did in days of yore?
Keep it not alone with feasting,
Not alone with mirth and play,
But with thanks for countless blessings
That have brightened all the way;
So with earnest hearts and grateful,
Let us keep Thanksgiving Day!

Any day in the year may now be Turkey day— however, many families still think of turkey as the festive bird to grace the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner tables.

The modern turkey, so improved over the years that it is literally a new bird, comes both smaller and larger than its ancestors. It is also meatier and more tender, plumper, and more compact, and has a larger proportion of breast meat.

Today turkeys can be bought by official grades which indicate quality —U. S. Grade A and U. S. Grade B.

For the small oven, there are small meaty turkeys such as the Beltsville Small White and the Jersey Buff. Roasting-age young tom turkeys of these breeds weigh from 9 to 15 pounds, ready-to-cook hens from 5½ to 9 pounds.

Largest of all is the Broad Breasted Bronze—toms weighing 17 - 30 pounds and hens, 10 - 14 pounds.

Time table for roasting turkeys:
21-25 pounds at 250°F for 8-9 hrs.
16-20 pounds at 250°F for 6-7 hrs.
12-15 pounds at 275°F for 5-6 hrs.
8-11 pounds at 300°F. 3½-4½ hrs.
5-7 pounds at 325°F. 2½-3 hrs.

Turkeys may be roasted in aluminum foil or covered with several thicknesses of cheese cloth which has been greased with vegetable shortening or butter. Baste every hour during baking.

Holiday Desserts

Desserts should be more than just "something sweet" - they should contribute to the food value of the meal. Since most people use less fruit and milk than they need, a dessert from one or both of these good foods will really help the meal.

Pineapple Sherbet

2 cups butter milk, 1 cup crushed pineapple, 1 cup sugar, 1 tablespoon vanilla.

Stir mixture once or twice during freezing to make it smoother.

Orange Charolte

1 envelope unflavored gelatne, 1 cup orange juice, ½ cup sugar, ½ cup water, 1 tablespoon grated orange rind, 1 cup heavy cream, 2 egg whites, sections from 1 orange, 10 ladyfinger cookies.

Soften gelatine in orange juice, heat water and sugar together, add gelatine and stir until dissolved. Add rind, cool. Whip cream, beat egg whites and beat galetine mixture until frothy. Fold all three together. Oil mold and line sides with ladyfingers. Place orange sections in bottom of mold. Spoon in the orange-cream mixture very carefully and chill in refrigerator until firm (about 4 hours). To serve, loosen edges gently with a knife. Invert over serving plate. Serves 6 to 8.

The home demonstration club members have enjoyed preparing and serving "Foreign Foods" this month. Many delicious and interesting dishes have been prepared and served.

Mrs. E. W. Marshall, Sr., Glendale Club, served: "German Coffee Bread." Here is her recipe:

2 packages dry yeast, ½ cup of warm water, 1 teaspoon sugar, 1 cup scalded milk, 2-3 cup sugar, 2 teaspoons salt, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, 5 to 5½ cups sifted flour, ½ cup melted butter, 2 eggs, beaten.

Soften yeast in warm water with 1 teaspoon sugar. Scald milk, and add 2-3 cup sugar, salt and cinnamon. Cool to lukewarm and combine with yeast mixture. Add 2 cups flour, beat well, blend in cooled butter, beaten eggs and remaining flour to make a soft dough. Knead on floured board, well, place in buttered bowl. Let rise until double in bulk. Divide dough into three parts. Add 1 cup currants to one part. Roll each part into a strip 18 inches long. Place strips on greased cookie sheet and braid together. Let rise until double in bulk. Bake in oven at 350° for 40 minutes. Top with powdered sugar frosting and decorate with pecan halves and currants and maraschino cherries. Serve warm or cold with coffee.

FREAK ALARM SAVES 5

Huntington, W. Va.- A faulty transformer which caught fire, caused a freak short circuit in the doorbell of the home of Mr. and Mrs. David L. Francis. The short circuit set the doorbell to ringing, awakening the family and allowing the Francis' and their three children to escape their burning home. The blaze caused damage estimated at "thousands of dollars."

Around Your Home

By Frances Dell

The holly is a favorite winter decoration. It is associated with Christmas and all the festive occasions during the Yuletide season. This, coupled with its startling beauty, makes it the most popular evergreen in most sections of the country.

Holly is especially adaptable as a hedge and will thrive in either sun or shade. In fact, holly will remain more nearly uniform in color and texture than any other hedge, except perhaps a few.

Besides being beautiful, a holly hedge can be a source of income. If you have ever bought a sprig of holly at Christmas time in a large city, you know how much each small branch is worth.

The only hard part of growing holly is establishing it. This can be made easier if you use plenty of oak leafmold when planting. You should add more every two years, and keep a blanket of oak leafmold over the roots at all times.

Chemical fertilizers should not be used on hollies. No food, other than oak leafmold should be given unless growth seems slight and color somewhat light. If this condition occurs, use cottonseed meal and tobacco in early spring or fall or both times.

Cultivate sparingly.

Don't worry about soil. Holly grows equally well in sand, gravel, clay or rock. The most important thing to remember is to use lots of oak leafmold, and give the plant plenty of water. A good watering once a week, until the plant is established, is most necessary.

ALASKA TO USHUAIA

Los Angeles, Calif.- Philip Whitmarsh, 52, a member of the Adventurer's Club of Los Angeles, plans to drive a Volkswagen from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Ushuaia at the southern tip of South America, a distance of 13,500 miles. He recently left California for Alaska to begin the trip.

A SOUND SLEEPER

Oklahoma City, Okla.- Mrs. Jasper Smith reported to police that her husband feel asleep while the family's new radio-phonograph was playing and slept on so soundly he did not hear a burglar walk into the house, unplug the player and carry it off. Mrs. Smith was visiting neighbors when the theft occurred.

RUGGED WINTER

Dublin, N. H.- According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, the oldest periodical in America which is still continuously published in the same name and original appearance, the coming winter will be "as severe as any of the Twentieth Century." Beginning with bleak November weather, bad storms and blustery cold succeeding one another, with very few mild spells or thaws and no real winter weather break until late March is forecast.

LEAVES 179 DESCENDANTS

Chesapeake, Ohio.- When Sara Bailey, 89, of Route 1, Rock, W. Va., died recently she left 179 direct descendants. Survivors include a daughter, Clara Lucas, at whose home she lived, four other daughters, 10 grandchildren, 99 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Records are toppling in foreign trades.

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FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

ACP PRACTICES

farmers are confused with ical designations assigned ifferent ACP Practices. To understand what they ean, here is a brief explanation of each practice for which you may be Appomattox County. ed to qualify should go County ASC Office and sign the practice in which you intend, prior to December 9,

permanent vegetative cover, ming, fertilization, and for first seedings of perennes. Applies to land not ent cover, but which

additional rotation cover, ming, fertilization, and emphasis on which more or better cover is needed ny rotation.

ing farmland, covers initiation of farm land now in ass or legumes or which ended to forage grasses or in 1956 or 1957.

ole establishment of contpropping to protect soil ion. This practice is superthe Soil Conservation Servication.

ning of a stand of trees ing for erosion control, protection, forestry purpose includes the planting of ings in open areas, spot of existing open areas of spot planting in woodfor filling in undesirable ings by girdling, lopping ing. No cost-sharing will d in Appomattox County ing white pine, black or ut, yellow poplar, or

ing permanent cover, the initial improvement by liming, fertilizing and reseeding of land which (1) is suitable for, (2) is now in, and (3) is intended to remain permanently in pasture or hay, other than alfalfa.

B-7, construction of dams or ponds to water livestock and thus obtain a more desirable distribution of livestock and encourage rotation grazing which would protect the established cover. This practice must be carried out under the supervision of a Soil Conservationist technician.

B-9, cross - fencing pastures, includes construction of new cross fences which improve the use of pasture by permitting better grazing management.

B-10, initial improvement of a stand of forest trees for erosion control, watershed protection or forestry purposes. This includes thinning, pruning, re-seeding, killing off of undesirable trees and fencing that may be necessary to protect the area from grazing animals. This practice must be carried out under the supervision of a qualified forestry technician.

C-1, establishment or permanent sod waterways to dispose of excess water that would otherwise cause erosion.

C-5, construction diversion terraces to prevent run-off and thereby direct this excess water to protected outlets. This practice must be carried out under supervision of a soil conservation technician.

C-9, construction of permanent open drainage systems to eliminate excess water. This practice must be carried out under the supervision of a soil conservation technician.

C-10, installation of underground tile drainage systems to dispose of excess water. This practice must be carried out under the supervision of a soil conservation technician.

C-14, construction or linig dams or ponds for irrigation water. This practice must be carried out under supervision of soil conservation technician.

D-1-, establishing winter cover, provides for fertilization and seeding of winter cover on cropland. May be grazed.

D-2, summer cover, provides for fertilization and seeding of summer cover on cropland that would otherwise be unprotected. Grazing is permitted.

D-4, year-round cover, provides for liming, fertilizing and seeding cover on fields which are being shifted from production for the entire year of 1954. Grazing is permitted.

MILK CONTAMINATION

The greatest single cause of milk contamination is from dirty utensils and milking equipment. Equipment or utensils that have open seams, cracks, dents, and scratches or worn and cracked rubber parts, allow dirt to collect and thus are sources of contamination.

Even though steam or hot water is used to sterilize equipment, a thorough job must be done to prevent the development of heat resistant bacteria. Such bacteria can create serious problems since they lower the keeping qualities of milk and contaminate the plant equipment with which they come in contact. To clean equipment, follow the "rinse, clean, rinse" routine. Rinse all equipment with hot or cold water immediately following the removal of milk. Next, scrub all the equipment with a good brush using hot water and a detergent. Following this, rinse all equipment in scalding water, that is water that has a temperature of at least 180 degrees. Place this equipment on racks so that it can drain and dry before the next milking, and prior to the next milking, rinse equipment with a fresh sanitizing solution.

Transplant Shade Trees

A good time for the planting of shade trees is in the fall after the leaves have fallen. Small trees can be transplanted with a bare root. However, the roots should be covered with buralp or other material to prevent them from drying out. If large trees are to be transplanted they should be dug with a ball of earth which is then wrapped with burlap and set in the new location as soon as possible. In removing trees a good plan to follow is to draw a circle around the tree that extends from the base of the tree as far out as the widest branches. In so doing the chances of including all of the feeder roots are very good.

In moving to the new location, dig a hole that is roughly twelve inches larger than the spread of the roots so that they will settle again in their normal position. Remove the poor sub-soil and add top soil from the woods. Trees should be set at the same depth as before. Fill in around the root system with good top soil, packing the soil only enough to be sure the tree is left standing in an upright position. Add a sufficient amount of water to insure a thorough soaking. This may be done by rocking tree back and forth a little to help the water settle and carry soil into any air pockets that may have been left. Leave a small trench around the trunk to catch and hold water that may fall later.

After planting, mulch with straw or sawdust. Water is needed. However, a good soaking once a week is usually sufficient. When watering is done, be sure that an ample amount is put down rather than a small sprinkle. To protect trees, a small piece of burlap may be wrapped about the trunk, using several wires to stake the tree into position. To prevent sunscald and damage from borers, wrap with burlap or heavy paper covering from two inches below the ground up to the first limb. Remove all dead or broken branches and prune one-third of all top growth.

Alfalfa With or Without Grass

Although the time for the fall seeding of alfalfa has passed, many farmers anticipate making spring seedings. Therefore, now is a good time to decide whether or not it is desirable to use orchard grass when alfalfa is seeded. Naturally, this decision must be made by the individual farmer, and there are pro's and con's to the question.

When orchard grass is seeded with alfalfa, there is a better chance for a successful stand, as orchard grass will grow in areas in the field where the alfalfa fails to take because of soil conditions, wet spots, low pH or other conditions. Grass makes curing of the first cutting much easier. Also, the total yield for a mixture is greater than that of the alfalfa only. This is especially true when alfalfa begins to thin. However, if the hay is to be marketed, straight alalfa brings a higher price than alfalfa-grass mixture. During the dry years of 1953 and 1954, alfalfa alone yielded slightly more than the alfalfa grass mixtures. However, the reverse is true in years of normal or higher than normal rainfall.

Apparently those who go on the market to buy hay, fail to realize that alfalfa-orchard grass mixture, with the exception of the first cutting, is of higher feeding value than straight alfalfa. If the first cutting is done when the alfalfa is heading out, but before full bloom, there is little difference between this and the first cutting of straight alfalfa. If you are seeding alfalfa for the first time, it is usually best to use a mixture since alfalfa is one of the most exacting crops as to soil, lime and plant food. Chances of getting a satisfactory stand when these needs are not met, are not very good. The use of orchard grass with alfalfa will help secure a satisfactory stand if this is a new crop on your farm.

Fertilizers For Small Areas

Home owners who have only a garden or lawn to fertilize may sometime shave trouble in figuring out the correct amounts of lime and fertilizer for small areas when recommendations are given "per acre."

When the recommendation is for 200 pounds of lime or fertilizer per acre, the rate per 1,000 square feet is 4.6 pounds. Likewise' 300 pounds per acre, 6.9 per 1,000 square feet; 500 pounds per acre, 11.5 pounds per 1,000 square feet; 700 pounds per acre, 16.1 per 1,000 square feet; 800 pounds per acre, 18.4 per 1,000 square feet; 900 pounds per acre, 20.7 pounds per 1,000 square feet; and 1,000 pounds per acre, 23 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

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